



The Oratory of Saint Philip Neri



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WHEN CATHOLICS TRY TO DEFEND THE supernatural foundation of the Church, they usually argue that nothing of purely human origins, especially fragile and fallen human origins, could last for two thousand years—it must be God’s work. Nothing else could explain it.

Some version of this train of thought has been running through our minds as we celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the Toronto Oratory. What began in Montreal was transplanted to



Toronto. What began as a rather small endeavour has become a large community. What began without having a clear ministry entrusted to it has become a community with two inner-city parishes and a thriving Seminary. So much has changed, but so much has remained the same.

The Toronto Oratory that we see today could not exist if not for the insights and zeal of its founder, Father Jonathan Robinson and its early members. They were the pioneers, blazing the



paths. But the life they so impressively started would not remain if not for the faithfulness and generosity of those who have followed in their footsteps. And none of this would have been possible without the outpouring of support from God’s faithful ones, whose dedication, prayers, and generosity have made this growth possible. If any one of these elements were missing, the

reality that is the Toronto Oratory would never have endured and thrived for fifty years. But even though all of these contributions are undoubtedly necessary, they are not sufficient to explain the supernatural flourishing of the Oratory in Toronto and of those associated with it. Only God can make that happen. And He did. We kneel in gratitude to the divine grace




and blessings that have made this precious place arise, grow, and persevere. **What God has begun, may He bring to completion.**

But our hearts are moved with a deep and abiding thankfulness for the help of so many of you. We are honoured to serve you, and we continue to count on your support. Together, may the next fifty years be even more glorious than the first.



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